

B. Abbreviations and Definitions

I. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations shall be the shortened form of the word or phrase indicated, the definitions of which may also be included in Section III below:

Ac.	.....	acre/acreage
AMP	.....	Appropriate Municipal Panel
AO	.....	Administrative Officer
ANR	.....	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
BFE	.....	Base flood elevation
CFR	.....	Code of Federal Regulations
DRB	.....	Development Review Board
FEMA	.....	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	.....	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FHA	.....	Flood Hazard Area
FHBM	.....	Flood Hazard Boundary Map
FHO	.....	Flood Hazard Overlay District
Ft.	.....	Feet/foot
LOMA	.....	Letter of Map Amendment
LOMC	.....	Letter of Map Change
LOMR	.....	Letter of Map Revision
NA	.....	Not applicable
NAI	.....	No adverse impact
NFIP	.....	National Flood Insurance Program
RAPs	.....	Required Agricultural Practices
RCO	.....	River Corridor Overlay District
SF	.....	Square feet
VSA	.....	Vermont Statutes Annotated
VT	.....	Vermont
ZBA	.....	Zoning Board of Adjustment

II. Construction of Language

Except where specifically defined herein, all words used in this bylaw shall have their common meanings. The word "shall" means the action is mandatory; and "occupied" and "used," in the context of structures and vehicles, shall be considered as though followed by "or intended, arranged, or designed to be occupied or used."

III. Definitions

“Accessory dwelling” means an efficiency or one-bedroom apartment that is clearly subordinate to a single-family dwelling, and has facilities and provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation. See 24 V.S.A. § 4412(1)(E) for more information.

“Accessory structure” means a structure which is: 1) detached from and clearly incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure on a lot, 2) located on the same lot as the principal structure or use, 3) clearly and customarily related to the principal structure or use, and 4) only used for vehicle parking, storage, or primarily building access. Examples include, garages, garden and tool sheds, and playhouses, but do not include “accessory dwellings.”

“Area of special flood hazard” is synonymous in meaning with the term “special flood hazard area” for the purposes of this bylaw.

“Associated transportation and utility networks” means those transportation and utility networks connected to a bridge, culvert, or utility for the purpose of crossing a river or stream and do not include transportation or utility networks within the river corridor that merely run parallel to a river or stream¹.

“Base flood” means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (commonly referred to as the “100-year flood”).

“Base Flood Elevation” (BFE) is the elevation of the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year. On the Flood Insurance Rate Map the elevation is usually in feet, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, or other datum referenced in the Flood Insurance Study report, or the average depth of the base flood, usually in feet, above the ground surface.

“Basement” means any area of a building having its floor elevation below ground level on all sides, including crawlspaces.

“BFE” see “Base Flood Elevation.”

“Channel” means an area that contains continuously or periodic flowing water that is confined by banks and a streambed.

“Compensatory storage” means a volume not previously used for flood storage and which shall be incrementally equal to the theoretical volume of flood water at each elevation, up to and including the base flood elevation, which would be displaced by the proposed project. Such compensatory volume shall have an unrestricted hydraulic connection to the same waterway or water body. Further, with respect to waterways, such compensatory volume shall be provided within the same reach of the river, stream, or creek.

¹ These do not include state transportation networks or power generation and transmission utility networks subject to the Public Utility Commission jurisdiction, as those are exempt from municipal regulation and are regulated under the State Flood Hazard Area & River Corridor Rule; <http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/wsmd-fha-and-rc-rule-adopted-2014-10-24.pdf>

“Common plan of development” means where a structure will be refurbished or constructed under one approved plan or permit, but in separate stages, phases, or in combination with other construction activities. Such work may be planned unit by unit and may take place at different times, on different schedules.

“Construction trailer” means a vehicle which is: (1) built on a single chassis; (2) 500 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (3) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable; and (4) designed for use as a temporary office facility used to support management of a construction project, and not as a permanent structure.

“Critical facilities” means facilities that are vital to public health and safety, including police stations, fire and rescue facilities, hospitals, shelters, schools, nursing homes, water supply and waste treatment facilities.²

“Designated center” means a downtown, village center, new town center, growth center, or neighborhood development area designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Chapter 76A.

“Development” means any human-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials³.

“Encroachment” means activities or construction including fill, substantial improvements, and other development that may cause an increase in flood levels.

“Equilibrium condition” means the width, depth, meander pattern, and longitudinal slope of a stream channel that occurs when water flow, sediment, and woody debris are transported by the stream in such a manner that it generally maintains dimensions, pattern, and slope without unnaturally aggrading or degrading the channel bed elevation.

“Fill” means any placed material that changes the natural grade, increases the elevation, redirects the movement of flood water, or diminishes the flood storage capacity at the site. Temporary storage of material for less than 180 days is not considered fill.

“Flood” means (a) a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from: the overflow of inland or tidal waters; the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source; and mudslides which are proximately caused by flooding and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current; (b) the collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature,

² A community may opt to expand the definition to include other structures as essential to the health and welfare of the population and that are especially important during and after a disaster. For example, the type and location of a business may raise its status to a critical facility, such as a grocery store or gas station.

³ Note this definition is required by the National Flood Insurance Program and differs from “land development” defined in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117.

such as flash flood or abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding.

“Flood fringe” means the portion of the flood hazard area that is outside of the floodway but still inundated by the base flood (the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year).

“Flood hazard” means those hazards related to damage from flood-related inundation or erosion.

“Flood hazard area” shall have the same meaning as “area of special flood hazard” under 44 C.F.R. § 59.1. “Area of special flood hazard” is synonymous with the term “special flood hazard area.”

“Flood Insurance Rate Map” (FIRM) means an official map of a community, on which the Federal Insurance Administrator has delineated both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. In some communities the hazard boundaries are available in paper, pdf, or Geographic Information System formats as a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM).

“Flood Insurance Study” means an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, the corresponding water surface elevations or an examination, evaluation, and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and /or flood-related erosion hazards.

“Floodplain or flood-prone area” means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of “flood”).

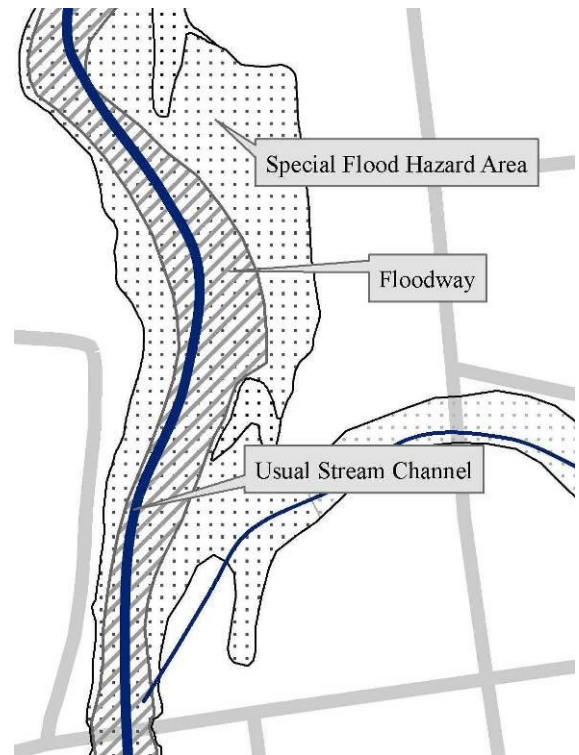
“Floodproofing” means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

“Floodway” means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point. Please note that flood hazard areas and floodways may be shown on a separate map panels.

“Fluvial erosion” means the erosion or scouring of riverbeds and banks during high flow conditions of a river. Fluvial erosion is most likely to occur within the river corridor.

“Functionally dependent use” means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water.

“Grading” means the movement or replacement of topsoil or other material originating on the site and within the hazard area. Grading results in minor or no changes in topographic elevations. If new



material is brought from outside the hazard area and such new material is not offset with an equal or greater removal of material from the portion of the site within the hazard area, the new material shall be considered “fill” and shall not be considered grading.

“Historic structure” means any structure that is: (a) listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of the Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register; (b) certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; (c) individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or (d) individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either: (i) by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or (ii) directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

“Infill development” means construction, installation, modification, renovation, or rehabilitation of land, interests in land, buildings, structures, facilities, or other development in an area that was not previously developed but is surrounded by existing development.

“Letter of Map Change (LOMC)” is a letter issued by FEMA officially removing a structure or lot from the flood hazard area based on information provided by a certified engineer or surveyor. This is used where structures or lots are located above the base flood elevation and have been inadvertently included in the mapped special flood hazard area. A LOMC can include a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F), or a Letter of Map Revision for a Floodway (LOMR-FW).

“Lowest floor” means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including basement. An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building’s lowest floor provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of 44 C.F.R. § 60.3.

“National Flood Insurance Program” means the National Flood Insurance Program under 42 U.S.C. chapter 50 and implementing federal regulations in 44 C.F.R. parts 59 and 60. The National Flood Insurance Program aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures. It does so by providing affordable insurance to property owners in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures.

“Natural and beneficial floodplain functions” means the functions associated with the natural or relatively undisturbed floodplain that includes moderating flooding, retaining flood waters, and reducing erosion, sedimentation and flood related damage. Ancillary beneficial functions include support of ecosystem services such as wildlife habitat, water quality, and recharge of ground water.

“New construction” means structures for which the *start of construction* commenced on or after the effective date of this bylaw and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

"Nonconforming structure" means a structure or part of a structure that does not conform to the present bylaws but was in conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations prior to the enactment of the present bylaws, including a structure improperly authorized as a result of error by the administrative officer. Structures that were in violation of the regulations in effect at the time of their creation, and remain so, remain violations and are not nonconforming structures.

"Nonconforming use" means use of land that does not conform to the present bylaws but did conform to all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations prior to the enactment of the present bylaws, including a use improperly authorized as a result of error by the administrative officer.

"Non-residential" includes: businesses, churches, schools, nursing homes, pool houses, clubhouses, recreational buildings, government buildings, mercantile structures, industrial structures, and warehouses.

"Person" means an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, and any other incorporated or unincorporated organization or group.

"Public water access" means a public access to a water of the State and, except for toilet facilities, shall not include structures as defined in this bylaw.

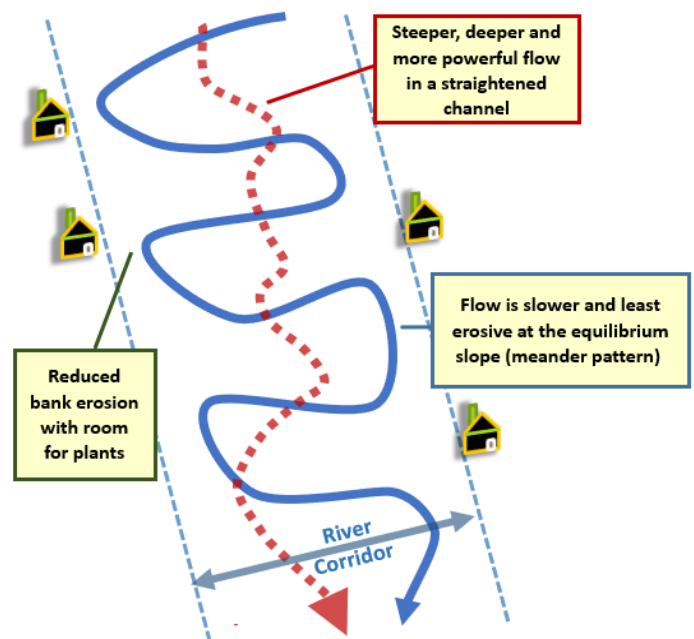
"Recreational vehicle" means a vehicle which is: (a) built on a single chassis; (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (c) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and (d) designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as a temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

"Redevelopment" means construction, installation, modification, renovation, or rehabilitation of land, interests in land, buildings, structures, facilities, or other development in a previously developed area. The term includes substantial improvements and repairs to substantially damaged buildings.

"Replacement structure" means a new building placed in the same footprint as the pre-existing building and does not include a change in use.

"River" means the full length and width, including the bed and banks, of any watercourse, including rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, and branches which experience perennial flow. "River" does not mean constructed drainageways, including water bars, swales, and roadside ditches.

"River corridor" means the land area adjacent to a river that is required to accommodate the dimensions, slope, planform, and buffer of the naturally stable channel and that is necessary for the natural maintenance or natural restoration of a dynamic equilibrium condition and for minimization of fluvial erosion hazards, as



delineated by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources in accordance with river corridor protection procedures. (10 V.S.A. § 1422).

“Special flood hazard area” is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. For purposes of this bylaw, the term “area of special flood hazard” is synonymous in meaning with the phrase “special flood hazard area.” This area is usually labeled Zone A, AO, AH, AE, or A1-30 in the most current flood insurance studies and on the maps published by FEMA. Maps of this area are available for viewing in the municipal office or online from the FEMA Map Service Center: msc.fema.gov. Base flood elevations have not been determined in Zone A where the flood risk has been mapped by approximate methods. Base flood elevations are shown at selected intervals on maps of special flood hazard areas that are determined by detailed methods. Please note, where floodways have been determined they may be shown on separate map panels from the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

“Start of construction” for purposes of floodplain management, determines the effective map or bylaw that regulated development in the special flood hazard area. The “start of construction” includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footing, piers, or foundations, or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

“Storage” means the aggregation of materials, items, or objects whether natural or human-made; that is kept as a stockpile, collection, or inventory; where individual materials from the stockpile, collection or inventory may change, but where the general footprint of the stored materials continues to be used for the same purpose; whether set upon the land or within a container, structure, or facility; and that would not otherwise be in compliance with these development standards.

“Structure” means a walled and roofed building, as well as a manufactured home, including gas or liquid storage tanks.

“Substantial damage” means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged conditions would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

“Substantial improvement”⁴ means any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure after the date of adoption of this bylaw, the cost of which, over three years

⁴ For further guidance, see FEMA P-758, *Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference*: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18562>

or over the period of a common plan of development, cumulatively equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either: (a) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been previously identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions or (b) Any alteration of an “historic structure,” provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as an “historic structure.”

“Top of bank” means the point along a streambank where an abrupt change in slope is evident, and where the stream is generally able to overflow the banks and enter the adjacent floodplain during flows at or exceeding the average annual high water stage.

“Top of slope” means a break in slopes adjacent to steep-banked streams that have little or no floodplain; or a break in slope where the side slopes adjacent to an incised, or deeply cut, channel meet floodplains that have been abandoned or are undergoing abandonment.

“Violation” means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with this bylaw. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in 44 C.F.R. § 60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

“Watercourse” means any perennial stream and shall not include ditches or other constructed channels primarily associated with land drainage or water conveyance through or around private or public infrastructure.

“Wet-floodproofing” means permanent or contingent measures applied to a structure that prevent or provide resistance to damage from flooding by allowing water to enter the structure in accordance with Technical Bulletin 7 published by FEMA. <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3503>

